

Message

From: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]
Sent: 9/9/2022 1:29:25 AM
To: Nicholson, John [Nicholson.John@epa.gov]
Subject: Whistleblower lawsuit against Administrator Regan and John Nicholson
Attachments: 20210913-COMP-Filed Complaint.pdf; 20211102-PLEAD-Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and Stay of Proceedings_Isaak_21 CVS 10831 (002).pdf

John,

Hi, it's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I hope all is well.

I wanted to let you know I'm working on a story about Melody Isaak's whistleblower lawsuit against Administrator Regan and you, John Nicholson, chief of staff for EPA Region 4. The lawsuit says while at the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Administrator Regan sought to cover up an allegation that you made a racist comment about Isaak and retaliated against Isaak by firing her. I will quote from and link to court records from this lawsuit in my story (please see attached).

Also, for your information, other court records posted by The Assembly show you denied making this comment about Isaak and that Administrator Regan and you dispute many of Isaak's allegations (please see <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22277043-doc06307620220906151830>). I will cite that information from those court records in my story.

As you can from my email below, I have sent questions to EPA press officials about this lawsuit. That said, if you have any comment about this lawsuit, I would be happy to include it in my story.

If you wish to comment, please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is noon ET Friday, Sept. 9, but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Also, since I'm working from home, please email me here or call me on my cell phone at 202-247-7844. Thank you for your help and stay safe, stay healthy!

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>

Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 9:21 PM

To: Hamilton, Lindsay <Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov>; Michalos, Maria <Michalos.Maria@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>

Subject: Whistleblower lawsuit against Administrator Regan and John Nicholson

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I hope all is well. My apologies for the evening email but I will follow up tomorrow morning. Also, I've included Brandi on this email because my story involves EPA Region 4.

I'm following up on The Assembly's story about Melody Isaak's whistleblower lawsuit against Administrator Regan and John Nicholson, chief of staff for EPA Region 4 (please see <https://www.theassemblync.com/short-form/michael-regan-lawsuit-epa/>). The lawsuit says while at the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Administrator Regan sought to cover up an allegation that John Nicholson made a racist comment about Isaak and retaliated against Isaak by firing her. I will quote from and link to court records from this lawsuit in my story (please see attached).

I have a few questions about this, which are:

-- What is Administrator Regan's response to this lawsuit?

-- The lawsuit alleges Nicholson said, "They need to quit holding those Black Klan Pep Rally Meetings; this is a place of business," referring to a meeting with Isaak and other Black women (please see page 7 of 20210913-COMP-Filed Complaint.pdf).

Did Nicholson make this comment?

Also, for your information, other court records posted by the Assembly show Nicholson denied making this comment about Isaak and that Administrator Regan and Nicholson dispute many of Isaak's allegations (please see <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22277043-doc06307620220906151830>). I will cite that information from those court records in my story.

I will also note in my story that the state of North Carolina has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit (please see 20211102-PLEAD-Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and Stay of Proceedings_Isaak_21 CVS 10831 (002).pdf).

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is noon ET Friday, Sept. 9, but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Also, since I'm working from home, please email me here or call me on my cell phone at 202-247-7844. Thank you for your help and stay safe, stay healthy!

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